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FROM THE PRESS CUTTINGS

Population Notes

The Statistical Office of U.N. reports that the total population of the world was approximately 2,320 million in 1947, the latest year for which figures are available. Between 1937 and 1947 the population of North America, as a geographic unit, increased from 180 to 206 million, or by 15 per cent, while the population of Western Europe, excluding Western Germany, increased from 207 to 218 million, or only 6 per cent.¹ The death rate in Holland was 8.1 per thousand in 1947; that in Ireland was 14.9. These were the lowest and highest rates in Western Europe.²

According to the U.S. Census Bureau the population of the United States totalled 148,902,000 on June 1st, an increase of 13.1 per cent since the last census in 1940.³

Canada has one-fourteenth of the world's area but only 1/192 of the world's population—little more than 13 million.⁴ Family allowances were introduced in 1945, and the only jump in the birth-rate was in the first year after the war.⁵

According to the Commonwealth Statistician, most Australian babies were born in the first nine months of marriage. Ten per cent of births were within seven months of marriage.⁶

In France the excess of births over deaths during 1948 is some 358,000, according to preliminary statistics, and is the highest ever recorded. In the last three years the natural increase in population has been 982,000. The result is all the more remarkable in view of the high average age of the population. It is assisted by many measures taken to help mothers and parents of large families, but seems to be due principally to a change of attitude from that which prevailed in the first half of this century.⁷

In Switzerland, between 1946 and 1948, the birth-rate dropped by 17 per cent, but due to a better standard of living that of Portugal is on the increase. Between 1930 and 1940 the population rose by 900,000. These figures include Madeira and the Azores.⁸

Japan's population problem has gone beyond the stage where it can be kept within limits by birth control alone, says the report of a committee of investigation. There must be economic reconstruction measures to increase the country's population-absorbing capacity and emigration.⁹

Birth Control in Malaya

Last May the Singapore Municipal Commissioners voted to set up birth control clinics. Opposition was mostly on religious grounds, but several Roman Catholic members supported the motion.¹⁰ Street vendors are now displaying a supply of contraceptives with their other wares ;

they are also hawked by children in the streets of the city's Chinatown.¹¹

Population Maps

An important sidelight is thrown on the findings of the Royal Commission on Population by a number of maps which have been prepared by the Minister of Town and Country Planning and published by the Ordnance Survey, showing the total changes in population for the periods 1921-31 and 1931-9. These maps clearly indicate by the use of colours which parts of the country show increases, and which decreases. In certain rural areas there has been a steady decline in population, while seaside areas nearly everywhere show increases, as do the outskirts of the large towns.¹²

Child Health Service

The child health sub-committee of the Socialist Medical Association recommends that one regional planning authority should take complete responsibility for all forms of children's health and medical services. Regional hospital boards and local authorities within the regional hospital areas should jointly appoint child health advisory committees. Intelligence tests should be used for all children on entering school and at least twice during school life. Delinquent children should be treated entirely as sick children. They should not be brought to court except on the advice of a psychiatrist acting in conference with the child health officer, to whom magistrates, on formal notice of a charge, should refer inquiry into the case.¹³

Second Century of Health Statistics

The Registrar General's Return for the first quarter of this year inaugurates the second century of its publication. Contemporary events show the significance of the statement which appeared in the first issue : "... The present arrangement will show at short intervals how many marry, how many are born and how many die in England ; and will thus appear in time to enable the public and the legislature to take the indications which the returns may furnish into account in the conduct of affairs."

In this year's first issue a special study is included of the numbers complaining of illness, the duration of their illness and the number of times they consulted a doctor in the first six months of the national health service and during previous comparable periods.¹⁴

Apes Beat Children in Tests

Apes are smarter than some children, says Henry Harlow, professor of psychology at Wisconsin University. He has been pitting chimpanzees against children in a series of intelligence

tests, and reports that "the smartest apes learned faster than the dumbest children. In some situations they actually did better than most of the children."

The brightest of the chimps excels at this test: Nine objects of differing shapes and colours are spread out on a tray. He is given a triangle as a sign to pick out red objects and a circle as a sign to select blue ones. Children fumble over this, but the ape hardly ever fails.¹⁵

¹ *Glasgow Observer*, June 24th; ² *News Chronicle*, August 12th; ³ *Glasgow Herald*, July 26th; ⁴ *Canada's Weekly*, August 19th; ⁵ *Evening Standard*, August 5th; ⁶ *Star*, August 11th; ⁷ *The Times*, May 30th; ⁸ *Newcastle Journal*, June 15th; ⁹ *Evening Standard*, July 25th; ¹⁰ *News Chronicle*, May 30th; ¹¹ *Catholic Herald*, August 19th; ¹² *Sussex Daily News*, May 2nd; ¹³ *The Times*, June 4th; ¹⁴ *Municipal Journal*, August 12th; ¹⁵ *News Chronicle*, August 12th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mixture of Races

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—I have just read with interest Mr. A. Dickinson's article on race mixture in your July issue,* and cannot help thinking it is a great pity the effects of crossing white with black have apparently never been seriously studied in countries like Brazil, where there is no colour bar or race prejudice.

Here white, black and mulatto are equals, so far as colour goes, for whatever prejudice may exist against black or mulatto is due to character and habits, and not to colour; so much so that individual blacks and mulattoes have risen high in the social scale, there having even been Presidents with more Negro blood than would have sufficed to make them outcasts in the United States.

For this reason Mr. Dickinson's conclusion that social disapprobation alone accounts for inferior achievements does not always hold good. The truth seems to be that crosses between any white or nearly white, relatively pure races, or even between yellow and white, may show no signs of permanent deterioration from the parent stocks, but those between white and black certainly show an *average* of considerable disharmony, indolence, moral laxity and minimum ability, though very notable individual exceptions are to be found, as might be expected.

I have lived for half a century in South America, and have observed the differences in character between black, white and mulatto. Space will not allow me to go into details, but perhaps one example will suffice to show my meaning: In a public conveyance, if a woman carrying a child finds no seat, a white man is sure to offer his; but I never saw a black man or a mulatto do so. On the contrary, I have seen young mulattoes sit firm, with old ladies having parcels or younger women carrying children, standing right beside them all the time. They argue, "I am in my own country,

and as good as she is, or anyone else." They are the blatant ultranationalists and their chief ambition is to get a Government job with little or no work attached. Every housewife prefers white or pure black servants to mulattoes, who have acquired the reputation of being, generally speaking, insolent, lazy and dishonest.

Certainly they are fertile, but that is a very doubtful blessing for the community in which they live.

When the merits and demerits of crossing are discussed, I think a very clear distinction should be kept in mind between, for example, Nordic-Mediterranean crosses, which may be very beneficial, and those between different primary races.

C. WICKSTEED ARMSTRONG.

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Petropolis, Brazil.

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—Having no acquaintance with or knowledge of the background of miscegenation in Brazil, I do not presume to question the conclusions reached by Mr. Wicksteed Armstrong as to the qualities of the mixed stock. Reached after so long a period of study, these conclusions as to the "indolence" and "moral laxity" of the mulattoes must be taken as valid and should serve as an inducement for the research into Brazilian miscegenation which Mr. Armstrong suggests should be undertaken.

Correct though these conclusions may be, I feel that Mr. Armstrong's reasoning may still be open to question, considering the logical inconsistencies which are revealed in his letter.

Thus it is stated that in Brazil "there is no colour bar or race prejudice," which is followed by the qualification "whatever prejudice *does* exist is due to character and habits and not to colour." Now either race prejudice does exist or it does not. Mr. Armstrong seems unsure, but if we give him the benefit of reasonable doubt and assume the existence of a minimum of race prejudice, this he

* P. 81.

The Colophon which appears on the front page of the cover represents a flowering plant to which, in 1880, Professor J. Decaisne of the Paris Museum of Natural History gave, in honour of Sir Francis Galton, the name "Galtonia Candicans."

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